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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

24998 7590 08/21/2009

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP
1825 EYE STREET NW
Washington, DC 20006-5403

EXAMINER

MIRZA, ADNAN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2445

DATE MAILED: 08/21/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,643	08/07/2003	Kenjiro Morimoto	K6510.0062/P062	8803
TITLE OF INVENTION: CONTROL METHOD FOR NETWORK SYSTEM				

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	11/23/2009

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

24998 7590 08/21/2009

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP
1825 EYE STREET NW
Washington, DC 20006-5403

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Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/635,643	08/07/2003	Kenjiro Morimoto	K6510.0062/P062	8803

TITLE OF INVENTION: CONTROL METHOD FOR NETWORK SYSTEM

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nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	11/23/2009

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
MIRZA, ADNAN M	2445	709-205000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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10/635,643	08/07/2003	Kenjiro Morimoto	K6510.0062/P062	8803
24998	7590	08/21/2009	EXAMINER	
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO LLP 1825 EYE STREET NW Washington, DC 20006-5403			MIRZA, ADNAN M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2445	
DATE MAILED: 08/21/2009				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1595 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1595 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/635,643	MORIMOTO ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	ADNAN MIRZA	2445	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/14/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 38,41 and 44.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|---|

/VIVEK SRIVASTAVA/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2445

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gianni Minutoli on 08/14/09.

Please amend claims 38, 41, 44 and cancel claims 39, 40, 42, 43, 45 and 46.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-37 (Canceled)

38. (Currently amended): A control method of an information processing device in a network system to which a plurality of information processing devices are connected, said plurality of information processing devices placing a plurality of characters that respectively correspond to said plurality of information processing devices to a first virtual space shared by said plurality of information processing devices, said plurality of characters being freely movable in accordance with operated inputs of said plurality of information processing devices, said control method being executed by a control means of said information processing device and comprising:

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a step of designating a distance from one character placed in said first virtual space to specify at least one character placed within said distance;

a step of creating a second virtual space based upon said distance when specifying said at least one character;

a step of placing said at least one character in said second virtual space; ~~and~~ a step of photographing an image of said at least one character seen from a virtual viewpoint corresponding to said information processing device in said second virtual space in accordance with an operated input of said information processing device;

a step of generating a photographing data including information of said image after photographing, which is executed by said control means of said information processing device;
and

a step of transmitting said photographing data to the other information processing devices, which is executed by said control means of said information processing device,

wherein:

the photographing data includes at least one ID code identifying said information processing device corresponding to said at least one character among said plurality of the information processing devices, an ID code identifying said information processing device photographing said image, and photographing information including information of said virtual viewpoint when photographing, and

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said photographing information includes a coordinate information of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual space and a coordinate information of a viewpoint position of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual space.

39. (Canceled)

40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently amended): An information processing device in a network system to which a plurality of information processing devices are connected, said plurality of information processing devices placing a plurality of characters which respectively correspond to said plurality of information processing devices to a first virtual space shared by said plurality of information processing devices, said plurality of characters being freely movable in accordance with operated inputs of said plurality of information processing devices, said information processing device comprising a control means for executing:

a step of designating a distance from one character placed in said first virtual space to specify at least one character placed within said distance;

a step of creating a second virtual space based upon said distance when specifying said at least one character; a step of placing said at least one character in said second virtual space; ~~and~~

a step of photographing an image of said at least one character seen from a virtual viewpoint corresponding to said information processing device in said second virtual space in accordance with an operated input of said information processing device;

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a step of generating a photographing data including information of said image after photographing; and

a step of transmitting said photographing data to the other information processing devices, wherein:

the photographing data includes at least one ID code identifying said information processing device corresponding to said at least one character among said plurality of the information processing devices, an ID code identifying said information processing device photographing said image, and photographing information including information of said virtual viewpoint when photographing, and

said photographing information includes a coordinate information of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual space and a coordinate information of a viewpoint position of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual space.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently amended): An information storage medium storing a control program for an information processing device in a network system to which a plurality of information processing devices are connected, said plurality of information processing devices placing a plurality of characters which respectively correspond to said plurality of information processing

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devices to a first virtual space shared by said plurality of information processing devices, said plurality of characters being freely movable in accordance with operated inputs of said plurality of information processing devices, said control program when executed by a control means of said information processing device causes the control means to execute:

a step of designating a distance from one character placed in said first virtual space to specify at least one character placed within said distance, which is executed by a control means of said information processing device;

a step of creating a second virtual space based upon said distance when specifying said at least one character, which is executed by said control means of said information processing device;

a step of placing said at least one character in said second virtual space, which is executed by said control means of said information processing device;

a step of photographing an image of said at least one character seen from a virtual viewpoint corresponding to said information processing device in said second virtual space in accordance with an operated input of said information processing device, which is executed by said control means of said information processing device;

a step of generating a photographing data including information of said image after photographing, which is executed by said control means of said information processing device;
and a step of transmitting said photographing data to the other information processing devices,
which is executed by said control means of said information processing device, wherein: the
photographing data includes at least one ID code identifying said information processing device
corresponding to said at least one character among said plurality of the information processing

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devices, an ID code identifying said information processing device photographing said image, and photographing information including information of said virtual viewpoint when photographing, and said photographing information includes a coordinate information of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual space and a coordinate information of a viewpoint position of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual space.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Canceled)

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 38,41,44 will be allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

The prior art references most closely resembling the applicants claimed invention is Nakazawa et al (U.S. 2002/0046050) and Sasaki et al (U.S. 6,298,374).

First Nakazawa disclosed a provision service system for providing users with characters such as interface agents and virtual characters in virtual space on computers or in TV games, charges for use of a provided character is computed according to a motion made by the character. However Nakazawa failed to disclose, "a step of generating a photographing data including information of said image after photographing, which is executed by said control means of said information processing device; and a step of transmitting said photographing data to the other information processing devices, which is executed by said control means of said information processing

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device, wherein: the photographing data includes at least one ID code identifying said information processing device corresponding to said at least one character among said plurality of the information processing devices, an ID code identifying said information processing device photographing said image, and photographing information including information of said virtual viewpoint when photographing, and said photographing information includes a coordinate information of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual space and a coordinate information of a viewpoint position of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual space”. These limitations are incorporated into all of the independent claims (claims 38, 41, 44).

Secondly Sasaki disclosed a communication management apparatus and recording medium which manages positions in the real world in connection with virtual spaces in a virtual word that correspond to these positions, which makes, while maintaining substitute join either of the virtual spaces of the virtual world. However Sasaki failed to disclose, “a step of generating a photographing data including information of said image after photographing, which is executed by said control means of said information processing device; and a step of transmitting said photographing data to the other information processing devices, which is executed by said control means of said information processing device, wherein: the photographing data includes at least one ID code identifying said information processing device corresponding to said at least one character among said plurality of the information processing devices, an ID code identifying said information processing device photographing said image, and photographing information including information of said virtual viewpoint when photographing, and said photographing information includes a coordinate information of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual

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space and a coordinate information of a viewpoint position of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual space”. These limitations are incorporated into all of the independent claims (claims 38, 41, 44).

In summary, the Examiner submits that Nakazawa and Sasaki taught all the limitations of independent claims in combination with other elements. Specifically prior art does not teach “a step of generating a photographing data including information of said image after photographing, which is executed by said control means of said information processing device; and a step of transmitting said photographing data to the other information processing devices, which is executed by said control means of said information processing device, wherein: the photographing data includes at least one ID code identifying said information processing device corresponding to said at least one character among said plurality of the information processing devices, an ID code identifying said information processing device photographing said image, and photographing information including information of said virtual viewpoint when photographing, and said photographing information includes a coordinate information of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual space and a coordinate information of a viewpoint position of said virtual viewpoint in said second virtual space”; therefore, claims 38, 41, 44 have been deemed allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adnan Mirza whose telephone number is (571) 272-3885. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Vivek Srivastava can be reached on (571)-272-7304. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are listed herein below.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)746-7239. Customer service number is (866) 217-9197.

/VIVEK SRIVASTAVA/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2445